

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are now present in this application, with no new claims being added by the present Preliminary Amendment. It should be noted that the amendments to original claims 6, 15, and 18 of the present application are non-narrowing amendments, made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations.

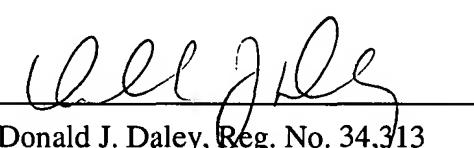
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of each of claims 1-39 is earnestly solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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